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General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Note by the Secretariat

The attention of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is drawn to the following provisions of General Assembly resolution 69/321, as highlighted in the first report of the General Committee (A/70/250), which was considered by the Assembly at its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2015:

(a) Paragraph 16 of the resolution, in which the General Assembly encouraged the Main Committees:

(i) To ensure adequate coordination in their work while avoiding overlap and duplication;

(ii) To hold elections for the Bureaux of the Main Committees at least three months before the opening of the session, and preferably up to six months in advance of each session, and called upon the regional groups to proceed with relevant nominations in a timely manner and in accordance with the interim arrangement set out in Assembly decision 68/505;

(iii) To benefit from their respective intranet and other online services to facilitate the smooth organization and timely conclusion of their work;

(iv) To further enhance sharing of information on the work and activities of the Main Committees within each Main Committee;

(v) To further improve the management of the negotiation process for Assembly resolutions (see A/70/250, para. 11);

(b) Paragraph 19 of the resolution, in which the Assembly requested each Main Committee to further discuss its working methods at the beginning of every session, and invited the Chairs of the Main Committees to brief the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly during the seventieth session on any best practices and lessons learned with a view to improving working methods, as appropriate (see ibid., para. 12);

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(c) The relevant provisions of the resolution concerning the interim arrangement approved in decision 68/505 recommending a pattern for the rotation of the Chairs of the Main Committees for the forthcoming five sessions, namely from the sixty-ninth to seventy-third sessions, as well as the guidelines on the election of Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees as contained in the annex to resolution 68/307 (see ibid., para. 13);

(d) The relevant provisions of the resolution relating to the request of the Assembly to the Ad Hoc Working Group to prepare long-term arrangements concerning the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees with the aim of establishing a predictable, transparent and fair mechanism, in consultation with regional groups, and to submit them to the Assembly not later than at the seventy-second session, and the invitation to Member States to present proposals and begin at an early stage to devote attention to the matter of concluding a future arrangement, which would come into effect at the seventy-fourth session, with the annex to resolution 68/307 containing the guidelines on the election of the Chairs and Rapporteurs of the Main Committees to be considered in that context (see ibid., para. 14);

(e) Paragraphs 27 and 28 of the resolution, on the need to enhance the coordination of the scheduling of the meetings of the Assembly, including high-level meetings and high-level thematic debates, with a view to optimizing their interactivity and effectiveness, especially during the general debate, and distribution of such events throughout the session, and the possibility of scheduling future high-level meetings during the first half of the year, from within existing resources, taking into account the calendar of conferences (see ibid., paras. 22 and 23);

(f) Paragraph 22 of the resolution, in which the Assembly emphasized that the Assembly and its Main Committees, at the seventieth session, in consultation with Member States, should continue their consideration of and make proposals for the further biennialization, triennialization, clustering and elimination of items on the agenda of the Assembly, including through the introduction of a sunset clause, with the clear consent of the sponsoring State or States, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group (see ibid., para. 65).

In addition, the attention of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) is drawn to the relevant provisions of Assembly decision 69/524 on the rotation of the post of Rapporteur of the Committee for the seventieth to seventy-third sessions of the Assembly.